



**TESTIMONY OF
TRINITY HEALTH-NEW ENGLAND
SUBMITTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
STUART ROSENBERG
PRESIDENT
JOHNSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
HOME AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017**

Governor's Proposed FY2018-2019 Budget

Good Evening, I am Stuart Rosenberg, President of Johnson Memorial Hospital and I am here to testify in opposition to **HB 7027, An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2019 and Making Appropriations Therefore.**

As you may know, Johnson Memorial is part of the Trinity Health-New England system since January 1, 2016. Johnson is the largest employer in our region, employing over 700 staff members and 100 volunteers from Stafford Springs and the surrounding communities. Our focus is and continues to be on the health and well-being of all of those individuals living in our communities. Our collective system strategy continues to be to improve access to health care services, educate and improve the wellness of our population and provide medical care at the highest quality and the lowest cost,

Johnson is licensed for 92 beds. We have an Emergency Department that has been upgraded and addresses any form of acute care needs in our communities. We perform surgeries on-site and have an adult inpatient psychiatric unit. In addition, we provide an array of outpatient services in Enfield area such as Outpatient Surgery, Cancer Care, Diagnostic Imaging, Laboratory, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Behavioral Health, Rehabilitation Wound Care, Sleep Center, and Primary Care. The list goes on but my point is that we are a fully integrated health system that adds tremendous value to our community.

What we cannot afford is another tax on our hospital.

We have been down this road before and we have been harmed and services compromised. When the state first enacted the hospital tax in 2011, the promise was to return more to the hospitals than was taxed. But this promise was not fulfilled and the

state kept repeatedly cutting dollars from hospitals. As you all know we were historically considered a small hospital under the current guidelines. Since Jointly Trinity Health New England that is not the case. However, we accept that principle but the notion identified by others that we have unlimited access to dollars is not the case at all. Small hospital or not we are held accountable to perform at the highest level, provide access to medical services for our communities.

We Johnson Memorial and Trinity New England cannot shoulder more taxes. We care about our communities and the people living in them and we want to continue to serve them and improve their quality of life. Please do not impose another tax on us. Like others testifying today about Connecticut's access to health care services, more taxes and substantial cuts will devastate the health and well-being of our states communities.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. We stand ready to work with you to find more creative alternatives and to find a solution that works for everyone.